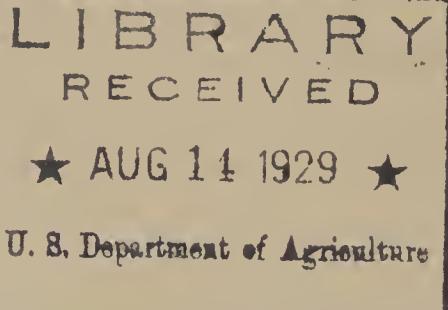


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



THE FARM CALENDAR.

A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, extension horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, in the absence of Dr. W. J. Spillman, through WRC and 31 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, at 1:35 p. m., E. S. T., Wednesday, July 31, 1929.

Hello folks: This is certainly good corn growing weather here at Washington, a little dry perhaps, but let us see what the weather man has to say about it. The following is a SUMMARY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS EAST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT 8 A.M. TODAY, EASTERN STANDARD TIME.

Local thundershowers have occurred since yesterday morning from southeastern Nebraska southeastward over the lower Missouri and middle Mississippi valleys. Tennessee and the South Atlantic states, a number of stations in this area reporting moderate amounts of rainfall and St. Joseph, Mo., 1.80 inches. Scattered thundershowers are reported also in Colorado, New Mexico, the Lake Superior region and along the West Gulf coast. Elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains the weather has continued fair. The temperature is still above normal in the north central states, the southern plains states and the middle atlantic states, but cooler weather has overspread North Dakota, western South Dakota, New England and New York. Maxima were again quite high yesterday over most sections east of the Rocky Mountains, the highest temperature reported being 102 degrees at Bismarck, N. Dak., and Fort Worth, Tex.

Tractor versus mule power for pecan cultivation was the subject of an address by Mr. J. M. Patterson, President of the Paper Shell Growers Association at Waycross, Georgia, May 28, 1929.

The Georgia Orchard & Garden News published by the Georgia State College of Agriculture at Athens, Georgia, gives the following points as made by Mr. Patterson. It should be noted that Mr. Patterson has under his observation several thousand acres of pecan orchards and has made an extensive trial with several makes of tractors.

Mr. Patterson says that this is an age of mechanical power in all industries. In more recent years agriculture has adopted mechanical power as a substitute for man and horse power. This shift in power is largely responsible for the shrinking farm population, and at the same time increased production. These facts are quite generally known and accepted. This rapid increase in the use of farm tractors is largely due to the fact that manufacturers have made striking progress in building tractors that are practical, economical and efficient.

In making this comparison between tractor and mule power, Mr. Patterson says that it would have required seventy mules to have done the work that was done with five tractors. That it would have required the services of 35 men against 5 men for the tractors. The total average cost per acre for the same work done by mules would have been \$1.60 as against 60¢ per acre for tractor work.

Besides the reduced cost of operations the work was done on schedule time and in pecan culture a fairly definite time schedule must be observed for the various operations. Mr. Patterson's experience will undoubtedly prove of value not only to pecan growers but to fruit and nut growers wherever conditions are such that tractors can be used.

The Mexican bean beetle, which feeds on the undersides of the leaves of beans, has been quite prevalent on the early crop of beans, and we may expect it to be very destructive in many sections for the rest of the season. It can be controlled by spraying with magnesium arsenate at the rate of 1 pound of the magnesium arsenate to 50 gallons of water or 1 ounce to 3 gallons of water. Where it is not possible to have the magnesium arsenate weighed, take an ordinary medium, sized teaspoon and use 10 level, not heaping, teaspoonfuls of the magnesium arsenate to 1 gallon of water. Apply the spray so that the undersides of the leaves will be thoroughly coated. Applications should be made weekly or at 10-day intervals. Do not spray snap beans with the poison after the pods begin to form.

The Mexican bean beetle can also be controlled by spraying with Pyrethrum extract which can be purchased from seed dealers. Pyrethrum extract, however, may prove a little expensive for spraying large commercial acreages, but its use in the garden and on small plantings is thoroughly practical and it may be used after the pods have begun to form, as it is non-poisonous in the dilutions recommended for the control of bean beetle. Frequent and thorough spraying of the bean plants is the keynote of success in the control of the bean beetle.

According to reports in recent English newspapers, about 1,000 acres of glass structures are now being used in England for the production of tomatoes and cucumbers. The greenhouse vegetable industry is not only increasing in England, but also in Holland, Belgium, and other European countries. We have in the United States 1200 to 1500 acres of glass devoted to the growing of tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and other vegetables, mostly during the fall, winter, and spring months. The greenhouse vegetable industry of this country is located for the most part in the northeastern States, that is, from Chicago eastward, or near the great consuming centers. "Farms under glass," is the term that might properly be applied to the great ranges of glass houses from which vegetables are frequently shipped in carloads.